

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-28 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7 and 16 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claim 7. The amendments to claims 5 and 14, as well as newly added claims 22 and 26, are supported by the Specification at page 9, paragraph [0014]. Newly added claims 21, 24, 25 and 27-28 are supported by the Specification at page 13, paragraph [0023]. Newly added claim 23 is supported by the Specification at page 16, [0030]. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

MAR 13 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

Andrew D. Meikle

Registration No.: 32,868

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant